

"I AM THE LAW!"

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Photoplay by Raymond L. Schrock.

Adapted from story by James Oliver Curwood entitled "Poetic Justice of Uko San"

Of all the lands God hated most
When he made this world of ours,
Was the spot where Satan landed,
When he fell down from the stars;
The place where Death and Sickness
Go stalking thru the snow;
Where men go blind and jibber,
When it's fifty odd below!
The land of Sin, Despair, Lost Hopes,
Where the roughest toughest pray!
The cursed, blast-ed frozen waste,
They call "The Hell's Highway."

Stretching between "The Law" and "The Lawless" in the Hudson Bay country, is a vast, frozen desert of white, known as "Hell's Highway", where men fight for their rights, where women's cheeks have forgotten how to blush, and where only the "Strong" survive.

At one end of the highway, was the town of "Paradise", the farthest outpost of the law and respectability, and the headquarters of the Royal North West Mounted Police. At the other end, was "The Front Door to Hell", the most notorious saloon and dance hall in the whole accursed country; most appropriately named, because it was the haven of refuge for the lawless; the one spot where the scum and spawn of depraved civilization was welcome; and the last resort of "sin-driven" women to barter their souls for the bounty of human beasts.

The owner and keeper of the "Front Door to Hell", was a cruel and crafty Chinaman named Hop Ling, who owned the habitues of his den of iniquity body and soul, and who recognized no law but his own - a suave and oily individual, who dealt in every form of vice under the sun, and who represented a deadly menace to those unfortunate enough to fall into his clutches. Yet, with all his evil qualities Hop Ling looked with contempt upon the "scarlet-women" who worked with him, and brutally repulsed their efforts to win his attentions, calling them in irony, "the white men's playthings."

Then it happened that Eleen Le Parge, a beautiful little French-Canadian school teacher, fell into the clutches of Hop Ling thru the operations of some of his hirelings engaged in "white slave traffic" When the wily celestial saw that she was a virgin, he immediately fell in love with her, and warned his hirelings to keep their hands off her under penalty of death, because he intended to make her his queen. With this end in view, Hop Ling showered the frightened Eleen with the most romantic attentions, giving her the best of everything, and offering to make her his wife and queen, to share his enormous fortune in a fairy palace in far-off celestial China, where he would take her after their marriage. He was aided and abetted in his scheme by some of his "scarlet-women" who sought to tell her what a mistake she would make if she didn't marry

Hop Ling, but the horrified Eleen repulsed Hop Ling with fear and loathing, and declared she would rather die, than be anything to such a yellow devil. This drove the oriental to ~~such~~ a fury, and he gave Eleen one hour in which to make up her mind whether she wished to become his wife or his toy, to be thrown to his hireling when he had grown tired of her. When Eleen in despair told him that the law would punish him if he attempted such a fiendish plan, Hop Ling laughed at her, and declared that there was no law but his in that country. When he left her, Eleen sank to her knees, and prayed to God to deliver her from the clutches of the "yellow devil".

Seemingly as if God had heard her prayer, a dog team and sled came out of the ~~xxx~~ Arctic night and stopped outside "The Front Door to Hell". A figure muffled in furs entered the saloon and strode up to the bar. It was Sergt. Bob Fitzgerald of the Royal Mounted, on the trail of the abductors of Eleen La Parge. It was the coming of "The Law".

Sergt. Bob sought out Hop Ling, and looking him squarely in the eyes demanded the whereabouts of Eleen. The Chinaman never batted an eyelash and professed surprise at the others' ~~demand~~ demand, declaring that the girl was not on his premises, and if the other doubted it, he could look for himself. Bob was almost convinced that he was telling the truth, and had even tested him to see if he were lying, when he chanced to look in the direction of one of the "scarlet-women". It was this woman, who fed up on the life of shame, and desirous of saving another of her sex from such a fate, gave him the tip to search the upper gallery. Quick as a flash Bob dashed up the stairs, and opening one of the doors, found Eleen on her knees in prayer. He begged her not to be frightened, explaining that he was of the Royal Mounted, and would save her from the fate threatening her, then he helped her into her wraps and together they left the room.

Hop Ling, fearful of losing the prize he coveted and in a panic, issued orders to his hirelings, and himself took up a position on the stairway to defy the law. When he saw Sergt. Bob approaching with the girl, he raised the pistol he carried, but Bob was quicker on the trigger, and with a cry of mingled horror and amazement, Hop Ling groped the air and plunged backward down the stairs.

With his arm protectingly about Eleen, and his service pistol in his other hand, Bob assisted her down the stairs and over the body of Hop Ling, where he faced the panicky hirelings he told them, "I AM THE LAW!" I have come to "The Front Door To Hell" and will remain here." Then Bob took the frightened girl out of the saloon and placing her in his sled drove off into the night.

Meanwhile, at Paradise, Bob's young brother Ralph, a weak and reckless Lothario, had fallen from grace. Also in the service of the Royal Mounted, he had been guilty of conduct unbecoming a soldier, and had been summoned before his superior, the grizzled and stern but lovable old Inspector Jim Wallace. Corp. Ralph Fitzgerald answered the summons with a slight edge on, trying vainly to hold his balance, and received a severe reprimand, being told that it was because of the Inspector's great respect for the high standing and integrity of Ralph's brother, Sergt. Bob, that saved the younger from court martial. Corp. Ralph promised to improve his behavior and was disciplined by being ordered to his brother, who had a cabin outpost near "The Front Door to Hell".

Inspector Wallace's wife Lizette, a natural born coquette, some fifteen years his junior, called on her husband at the barracks, and that it was quite easy for her to pull the wool over his eyes because his whole life and happiness was wrapped up in his belief in her.

Sergt. Bob took Eleen to his cabin to pass the night, preparatory to taking her to Paradise, and when the girl, overwhelmed him with declaration of gratitude for his saving her from a fate worse than death, he refused to acknowledge it anything more creditable than the performance of duty, but it was easy to see that Bob had fallen in love with her.

Corp. Ralph arrived, interrupting what he devined was a little tete-a-tete, and for which he sought to apke apologize. Bob introduced him to Eleen and from that moment Ralph found it difficult to keep his eyes off her. Bob did not suspect that his brother was so fascinated at first sight of the girl, and was foolishly happy over his "first love" and his dreams of making her his wife. He showed Ralph the Xman box that had arrived from their mother, and the letter which the dear old lady had repeated her solicitation concerning Ralph's welfare and conduct, and had requested Bob to watch over and protect his weaker brother, and keep him out of trouble. Ralph was exceedingly irritated over his mother's request, and declared that he would not be treated like a school boy any longer, and that Inspector Wallace was an old fogey just like their mother. Ralph Bob thus discovered that Ralph had been disciplined by the Inspector for breach of conduct.

When Ralph angrily refused to listen to Bob's well meant advice, Bob reminded him of the time when they were kids together, and how he had loved him, and wanted him to do right so that their mother would never have anything to worry her. Finally Ralph agreed with reluctance that he had erred and promised to do differently in the future.

Some time later, thru the influence of Sergt. Bob, Eleen was given a school to teach, about twenty miles from Paradise on "Hell's Highway", a little cabin which served both as a school and a home.

In the meantime Eleen had fallen in love with the weakling Ralph, unknown to Bob, who continued to dream of marrying her, and was only waiting for the arrival of the engagement ring he had ordered by mail, so that he could pop the question.

Corp. Ralph was a regular caller at the little school, where he courted Eleen in the most romantic fashion, painting wonderful pictures of happiness that could never materialize, and making scores of promises that he never intended keeping. The girl was too much in love to realize that he was just trifling with her, but her innocence protected her, for she refused to surrender herself to him, until they were married. At the same time Bob was haunting the post office in the general store, waiting for the ring to arrive, never dreaming that his brother was up to his old time tricks.

The flirtatious Lizette Wallace met Bob at the Barracks, and looking about for some excitement, picked on Bob as the kind of man she would like to play with, because of his physique and strength, but Bob was horrified, and repulsed her advances, feeling great sympathy for his loyal friend, the Inspector, whom he knew believed

in Lizette absolutely. Naturally when Lizette was repulsed, her pride was wounded, and she determined to bring Bob to her feet.

That day, the engagement ring arrived, and bubbling over with sentiment, Bob hastened to Eleen's school, where he found Ralph, who had just been making love to Eleen. Ralph was embarrassed, and pleading another engagement, hurried away. Bob was too much in love with Eleen to suspect that his brother had been courting her. Alone with her, he produced the ring and asked her to marry him. Eleen was stunned by his declaration, because she owed so much to him, and not wishing to hurt him, she explained that she loved him like a sister, and respected and admired him for the kind of man that he was, she could not marry him because she had already promised to marry his brother Ralph, whom she loved.

Sergt. Bob was crushed by her confession, and he gazed long and fondly into the brilliant setting of the engagement ring, where he saw the dreams of his future with her fade into nothing, one by one.

Eleen suffered too, because she saw how she had hurt Bob, and she tried to make it easier for him. Bob pulled himself together, and showing the mettle of the man, smilingly wished her the best, though his heart was breaking. Fate had placed Bob in a terrible position. He knew that his brother was not worthy of Eleen's love and confidence yet he dared not tell her the truth, so he rode away determined that Ralph should not break his faith to Eleen, no matter what else he might do.

Back at the barracks, Lizette Wallace smarted over Bob's spurning her, and when the next opportunity presented itself, made a play for him again. Bob again spurned her, and Lizette's temper was aroused. For revenge, she concentrated her attentions upon Ralph, who had only been waiting for the chance to have an affair with this passionate creature. Ralph was reckless enough to carry on this affair at the barracks, where Bob walked in upon his brother and Lizette, catching them in a compromising position. Bob was horrified at his brother's duplicity to Eleen and proceeded to give him a good bawling out, declaring hotly that he was amazed that his brother would play with something which did not belong to him. He then dismissed Ralph, who told him to mind his own business. Alone with Lizette, Bob gives her a good lecture, telling her that she was very foolish to play with fire because sooner or later she would get burned; and besides Jim Wallace was too fine a man for her to treat in such a shabby fashion. The woman naturally defended herself, declaring that with her and the Inspector, it was a case of May and December, and that her youth demanded youth; and that she was only playing with Ralph to make Bob jealous, because Bob could have her if he only said the word. In righteous anger, Bob turned upon her and told her that he would have nothing to do with her, because it was such women as she that were responsible for the misery in the world. At this juncture, Inspector Wallace appeared on the scene and saw at a glance the stained situation. Sergt. Bob took leave immediately. 'Twas then that the Inspector demanded that his wife tell him what had aroused her temper, for she was tearing her lovely embroidered kerchief to shreds, and her bosom was heaving. "Hell hath no fury like a woman scorned." for Lizette Wallace thereupon told the lie which would clear herself and get revenge upon Sergt. Bob. She told her husband that Bob had tried to make love to her forcibly

and that she repulsed him, but because of the friendship existing between her husband and Bob, she did not tell the truth willingly. She was so convincing, that Inspector Wallace started out to look for Bob with murder in his heart.

Bob had gone direct to the General Store, where to his further torture, he found Eleen with Ralph, and the latter who only a few moments before was making love to the Inspector's wife, was now making love to Eleen. It was here that Inspector Wallace found Bob, and publicly disgraced by demanding an apology for his insult to Lisette. Again fate was torturing Bob on the rack, because he dared not tell the truth, which would impeach the honor of the Inspector's wife; and hurt the woman he loved, who believed in his brother. Bob's silence to the Inspector was an admission of his guilt, and he suffered the humiliation of having the Inspector slap his face and dare him to fight. There was only one in the crowd present besides Ralph who believed in Bob, and that was Eleen. After Wallace had gone, she went up to Bob and placing her hand in his told him that the Inspector's accusation was false, because she knew that Bob was not that kind of a man.

Later, when Bob found his brother alone, he took him to task for his recklessness which had caused Bob to be disgraced, but Ralph sneeringly advised him to keep his nose out of other people's business and he would avoid such consequences. Unable to make any impression upon Ralph, Bob left him. A short time later Bob heard a telephone conversation of his brother with Lisette Wallace, from which he gleaned that the Inspector was about to leave on a trip, and that in order to safeguard his wife from further insult in his absence he would order Bob to return to the outpost that night. All that Bob could do was to obey his superior, and his heart ached as he saw the Inspector drive away while he himself was getting his dogs ready for his trip.

While Bob was thus engaged, Ralph had gone to the Wallace home, where over the Inspector's choice liquors and cigars he and Lisette were making merry.

When Bob had his dog team ready, he started for the Wallace home.

Meanwhile Ralph was making love to Lisette, declaring that she belonged to him, and that he'd fight the whole world for her, when Inspector Wallace returned home unexpectedly and caught them in an uncompromising position. Then scales dropped from his eyes and he realized what a terrible injustice he had done to Sergt. Bob. Accordingly, he bade the guilty lovers continue enjoying themselves, and seating himself at his desk, wrote an official letter recommending the Dishonorable Discharge of Ralph Fitzgerald, and another exonerating Bob, and asking his forgiveness.

Then the fiery old warrior made known to the guilty pair the contents of those letters, whereupon he took down a riding whip from the wall, and started in to give Ralph the whipping of his life. When the whip thong laid open Ralph's cheek and the blood streaked down his neck, Ralph drew his service pistol and shot the Inspector.

Sergt. Bob, arrived outside in time to hear the shot, and rushing into the house, saw his brother make a hasty exit out the back way, found Inspector Wallace dead upon the floor, and Lisette crouching in a

corner, weeping hysterically and unable to speak. Bob at a glance took in the tragic tragedy that had just been enacted, and was aghast when he realized that his brother had just killed the his beloved Inspector. Then in a bitter struggle between the love for his own flesh and blood and his duty, Bob realized that his duty was paramount, and he set out into the night, to bring back his brother dead or alive.

The chase had hardly begun, when down from the Arctic circle swept a blinding blizzard, that lashed and tore thru "Hell's Highway" like an enraged beast. With iceicles clustering their eyelashes their cheeks out to the raw by the driving sleet, and their dogs snarling at the wind which whistled and roared and engulfed the loudest cry, pursuer and pursued battled the elements, at times so close together that they could have reached out and touched one another. When the storm abated somewhat, Sergt. Bob was able to follow the tracks of his brother's dogs and sled, but only at intervals for the wind would blot out the tracks here and there with huge drifts.

Over hill and valley the chase continued, thru dense forests of glistening snow and across frozen rivers and mountain streams, over crags and mountain chasms, until pursuer and pursued met on a narrow ledge, ~~and plunged over the side of the cliff into the gorge~~ ~~landing on the surface of a frozen lake, where he disappeared from sight~~ where neither had time to draw a weapon. In the desperate hand to hand struggle that followed, Ralph fought with the courage born of fear, and Bob was the stronger, found himself sorely pressed. 'Twas then that fate again stepped in to mock the efforts of the Law, for Bob slipped on the icy coated ledge, and plunged and rolled down the side of the gorge landing on the surface of a frozen lake, where he broke thru the ice and disappeared from sight.

Upon the ledge, quaking with horror was Ralph, who had witnessed the tragedy of his brother. When the weakening reaction of the struggle had passed away, he laughed hysterically, for with the best "man-tracker" of the service out of the way, he had an even chance to escape. With this thought in mind, he cautiously felt his way down the mountain side, and doubled back on his tracks, with the realization that he would need food and supplies, if he were to successfully make the hazardous trip to Alaska.

Meanwhile Sergt. Bob was fighting for his life under the surface of the frozen lake, with the horrible realization that unless he escaped, he would be frozed in the ice and never be found. However, in his struggles, Bob fought his way to an airhole, and with his fast ebbing strength was able to pull himself up to safety; then the indomitable courage, the his clothing was fast freezing to his bone-chilled body, he crawled up the side of the gorge and resumed the pursuit of his brother.

Like the craven he was, Ralph sought refuge at the cabin of his sweetheart, Eleen, where he figured no one would dream of looking for him. Eleen was nearly frightened out of her wits when Ralph appeared. He told her that the "Mounted" were on his trail and demanded that she hide and protect him. She pleaded that he tell her what had happened - what he had done, but Ralph was desperate, was out of patience, and ordered her to prepare (who) some food

and show him that she loved him by believing in him. The frightened girl did as she was bid, then closed the wooden shutters of the cabin and bolted the door. Over his food, in front of the blazing log fire Ralph laughingly assured Eleen that he had done nothing to merit his being a fugitive, but that it had been his rotten luck to be the victim of circumstances. Eleen was panic stricken, and fearful for her lover's safety. Every now and then she would open the shutters just a crack, and with her face pressed close to the frosted glass would peer anxiously out into the snow storm. It was on one of these occasions that her heart sank, and she staggered back aghast to chokingly alarm Ralph, that someone was approaching on foot thro the snow. The fugitive drew his service pistol and clutching Elee's arm until she winced, shook her and said, "I'm going to hide in the loft overhead, and it's up to you to lie to save me. I shall be ready to shoot to kill if by word or look you give me away." Then Ralph climbed the ladder to the loft, and glancing upward, Eleen could see that Ralph's pistol was trained to cover the room below.

Suddenly there came a rap on the door, and a voice called out "Eleen"! The girl nearly collapsed, as she recognized the voice of Sergt. Bob. After a bitter struggle for control, Eleen went to the door and opened it; and Sergt. Bob with his glistening frozen clothing, staggered in, and sank into a chair by the fire. Quickly then, Eleen prepared him a hot drink and some food, and hovering near to be of service, listened with madly beating heart, as he told her of his fall thro the ice and his miraculous escape from death.

When he had finished

~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ his food, Bob called Eleen to him and told her that he was on the trail of his brother Ralph who had murdered Inspector Wallace, and asked her if she had seen him. Facing the crisis, Eleen did not weaken, and she lied beautifully, declaring that a fugitive from justice would certainly not seek refuge in a girl's cabin, when he had the chance to escape. Then in defense of the weakling, Eleen turned in anger upon Bob, and bitterly denounced him for hunting down his own flesh and blood - his brother. In reply to the fiery little girl, whom he loved better than his life, Bob said "Ralph Fitzgerald is no longer a brother of mine. He has broken God's Law and man's. He is a criminal and a fugitive - and I Am The Law!"

Furiously then, did Eleen assail Bob saying, "Yes, the Law - the Law that kills and kills and never pays back for what it takes." At this juncture, Bob happened to glance into the mirror over the fireplace, and therein saw a reflection of his brother in the loft overhead, with a pistol trained on him. In a tender way Bob told Eleen that he did not blame her for defending her sweetheart, but that his duty was paramount, and that he must push his way into the storm, which was increasing in violence. The fury of the wind sent the embers flying from the fireplace, and blew the lamp flame almost up to the top of the chimney. Then closed the door behind him.

For several minutes Eleen was frozen in terror to her tracks, then weakly she made her way to the door and bolted it. Then she sank into a chair, and tried to quiet the wild pulsations of her heart. 'twas then that Ralph climbed down from the loft overhead, and once again the gay Lothario with danger past, he thanked her for saving his life, and boasted of how they had fooled the best "Man-Tracker" in the service.

Eleen then pleaded with Ralph to take the opportunity to escape,

but the latter only laughed and declared that he would ^{not} go out into the storm - that he intended to pass the night with her. Filled with horror, the girl pleaded that he must go, because of her reputation. Surely he did not wish to compromise her. It was here that Eleen's eyes were open to the truth, and she realized that Ralph was nothing but a cad, for he swaggered up and down the cabin, and told her that he would be a fool to accept the peril and discomforts of a storm when he could stay by a warm fire and be entertained by Eleen. He told her that he had long enough waited to possess her, and since marriage was now out of the question, he was not going to lose this chance to possess her. Eleen was aghast, because she realized that Ralph had only been trifling with her. Very cunningly then since her honor was at stake, she suggested that Bob might return, and it would be wiser for him to get away while the chance afforded him, than to risk capture and the possibility of being hanged an innocent man. Ralph was completely disarmed by her anxiety and apparent belief in him, and he agreed that she was right. Eleen suffered him to draw her into his arms, and she accepted his kisses, the at that moment she loathed him, then he buckled his heavy coat about him, and drew her to the door. Here he kissed her again, laughingly declaring that it was a crime to desert such a prize, then he opened the door, but stood with his back to the storm. He waved a kiss to Eleen, and turned to find himself facing a pistol in the hands of his brother Bob, who had all the time been standing just outside the door.

Bob backed his brother into the cabin, and into a chair, then in scathing tones denounced him, and declared that he would take him back to answer for the Inspector's murder. Then the craven pleaded for mercy, declaring that he was Bob's own blood brother, and that Bob just had to allow him to escape because of their mother. He pleaded in vain, for Bob would not listen to him.

Outside the storm grew fiercer and fiercer, and the dread blizzard from the North swept down with all its intensity, wiping out all landmarks and making of "Hell's Highway" a trackless desert. The wind piled the snow in mountainous drifts about Eleen's cabin, blocking the doors and windows. The occupants of the cabin thus snowbound.

Bob disarmed his brother, and with apologies to Eleen sat down to await the passing of the storm, and the opportunity to take his prison back to Paradise.

For a week, the blizzard raged, during which time Sergt. Bob was stricken with chills and fever from his exposure to the icy waters of the lake. Cut off from the world outside, with only the simplest of remedies and Eleen's tender care, Bob grew worse, and then Delirium set in; while Ralph looked on and gloated over the fact that again fate was giving him a new lease on life, for he would see that his brother was in the clutches of pneumonia, with little chance to live.

One morning, Bob regained consciousness for a brief spell, and it all came back to him, that there in the cabin was his brother Ralph a criminal wanted for murder, and the little girl who loved his brother. He had a vision of his sweet old mother pleading with him to look after and ~~may~~ protect the weaker Ralph. Realizing that he was about to die, he sent Eleen to prepare some broth, then he called his brother to his side and told him that as he could not get

well, it was no use to break their mother's heart with the combined shock of his death and Ralph's crime; and that because Eleen loved Ralph, he would take the blame for killing Inspector Wallace, and sign a confession to that effect, so that Ralph might live to look after their mother, and to give Eleen the happiness she deserved. Ralph was almost delirious with delight over the big chance, and he hurriedly procured pen and paper and took down Bob's confession, after which he tenderly propped up his brother, so that he might sign the document. Then Bob lapsed into unconsciousness, and Eleen returning with the broth was amazed too see Ralph dancing up and down and laughing hysterically. Eleen demanded to know what Ralph meant, and the latter told her that Bob had just confessed to the murder of Inspector Wallace, because he was afraid to die with the crime on his conscience, and that, he Ralph, who had been falsely accused, was now a free man. Eleen could not believe it possibly but Ralph lied so convincingly that she could not make up her mind. To her amazement, Ralph started to dress to go out, and questioning him, she was shocked to hear that he was going back to Paradise to clear his name. Eleen said "Surely you're not going away before your brother dies? You're not going to leave me here alone with him?" In reply the cad laughed and told Eleen that she and his brother could go to H---! as far as he was concerned. Then Ralph Fitzgerald, gloating over his lucky escape opened the cabin door and fought his way thru the drifts, on the way to Paradise.

Eleen then realized that she had been blind all the time to the fact that it was Bob that she loved. She sank to her knees beside his cot, and prayed to her God to allow him to get well. Later, while reading the bible, during Bob's delirium, she chanced upon the ~~verse~~ verse, "GREATER LOVE HATH NO MAN THAN THIS, THAT HE LAY DOWN HIS LIFE FOR A FRIEND!" Eleen's suspicions were aroused, and she tiptoed to the side of the dying man, where bending close to his moving lips, she heard him faintly murmur, "TELL MOTHER I DID IT FOR HIM. GOD BLESS HER!" At last Eleen understands, and as she noticed that Bob was motionless, she burst into a fit of hysterical weeping, and called upon God to punish the selfish, ingrate, Ralph, who had taken advantage of his brother's condition.

Corporal Ralph Fitzgerald returns to Paradise, where he reported at the barracks, and turned over his brother's confession of murder, to the new Inspector in charge. For this performance of duty, he was advanced to the rank of Sergeant, and lionized at the barracks. Then he went down to the General Store, where he circulated the dirty lie, for he told a thrilling imaginary tale, of the chase and desperate fight with Bob in the Arctic Circle, before he could land him; only to have him die before he could bring him back to justice.

Then he called lost no time in calling upon Lixette Wallace, who were mourning only to deceive the public. He told her the truth and swore her to secrecy by threatening to name her his accomplice if the truth ever became known.

Some weeks later, we find that Bob Fitzgerald did not die as was supposed, but that under the love and tender care of Eleen, he was fast getting well and regaining his strength, tho he still had to lean upon her, when he moved about the cabin. As yet, Bob did not know that Eleen really loved him. He thought that her care and efforts to conceal him were merely her desire to repay the debt of his having saved her from Hop Ling.

Then one day a trapper, whom Bob had once licked for Brutality to his dogs, stopped at the little cabin for water, and saw Bob. He recognized him as the Sergeant of the "Mounted" who had killed Inspector Wallace, and who was supposed to have died. As soon as the man had departed, Bob told Eleen that he was sure that the trapper had recognized him, and that once he returned to Paradise, he, Bob, would again be a fugitive with a price on his head. Eleen argued with him, declaring that such could not be the case, because she knew that he did not kill the Inspector. When Bob reiterated that he did kill Wallace, Eleen told him that it was no use for him to deceive her any further, because he had told the truth in his delirium. Bob would not admit that his confession was a lie and he declared that people in delirium were apt to say anything. He told her that he must get ready at once to start for the far North to escape, and to find a place where he could begin life all over again. Eleen demanded that he take her with him, and when he did not understand and told her that she must stay behind because she had her life before her, she confessed that she loved him better than life, and that she did not realize that it had been him all the time, until his brother had shown his true colors that night in the cabin. Bob sought to dissuade her, telling her that if she accompanied him, she too would be a fugitive - a hunted thing - the companion of a criminal. Eleen's answer was to slap her arms about his neck and look deeply into his eyes and to say, "I love you, Bob, I love you. Whither you go, I shall go ~~me~~ also." Bob could no longer deny such a love, so he crushed her in his arms.

As Bob had feared, the trapper reached Paradise, where he immediately went to the barracks of the Royal Mounted to report that the murderer of Inspector Wallace was not dead as supposed, but alive and located at the cabin of Eleen, the school teacher. Immediately the new Inspector summoned Sergt. Ralph, and told him the astonishing news, then made it clear, that as he had originally brought in the confession without the man, it was now up to him to go back and bring in the man. This reversed the situation, for it was now Sergt. Ralph Fitzgerald on the trail to bring back his brother dead or alive.

Weeks later found Bob and Eleen far into the North, well stocked with provisions, and with only a scant twenty miles separating them from the Alaskan border, and safety.

Then one night, as the two lay asleep before the fire wrapped in their parkies and blankets, Bob awoke of a sudden to discover ~~himself~~ a pair of handcuffs snapped to his wrists. Looking up, he found himself confronted by his brother Ralph, who brutally told him that he was arrested in the name of the Crown, and would be taken back on the morrow to face trial. Eleen was awakened by the sound of voices, and sitting up she discovered to her horror that her lover had been captured by his brother, and the goal of safety so near at hand was now as far away as the opposite ends of the earth. In vain the terrified girl sought to shame the ingrate brother, but the latter only laughed in scorn and declared that the Law must be defended, and that the confession of Bob Fitzgerald, carried more weight than any of her hysterical accusations.

Sergt. Ralph brought his prisoner back to Paradise, and lodged him in the barracks jail, while Eleen followed along, determined that her lover should not hang for another's crime.

When the news spread thru Paradise that the murderer of Inspector

Wallace was in the barracks jail, feeling began to run high. Mob spirit began to boil up, and incited by some of the town leaders who declared that such a brutal murderer deserved no trial, was soon seething, and the angry mob determined to take justice into their own hands.

When Eleen got wind of the menace to her lover, she went to Lisette Wallace, where she faced the woman and declared that she knew who had killed her husband, and that she lied if she said that it was Bob Fitzgerald. Lisette Wallace refused to admit that anything, and stuck to her story, then ordered Eleen from her house, but when she felt the fingers of the grief-crazed girl at her throat, and had to fight for her life, she pleaded for mercy and the chance to tell the truth, for Eleen had her bent backward over a table and was choking her to death, and hissing into her ears, "If my lover has to die because of your foul lies, then you shall die also - only you shall die first."

Meanwhile the infuriated mob had grown to a great size, and had marched against the barracks jail; had battered down the door in the face of armed resistance, and had lead Bob Fitzgerald forth with a rope about his neck. They dragged him to a clearing near the barracks, where they threw the rope over a tree limb and were anxiously awaiting the signal to pull, when Eleen pushed her way thru the crowd, dragging the frightened Lisette Wallace after her. Their dramatic appearance halted the mob and the leaders gathered about Eleen to hear what she had to say. It was then that Eleen told them how Bob had made the great sacrifice to save his brother and his mother's heart when he thought himself dying, and how the ingrate brother had made capital of it. She then forced from Lisette Wallace the confession of the truth, that it had been Ralph and not Bob, who had been caught in a compromising position with her by her husband, and getting a horsewhipping by her husband at the hands of her husband, had shot and killed him.

The raging mob then turned upon Sergt. Ralph Fitzgerald who, seeing the game up, tried to make his escape, but was shot down. Then while the mob was dragging Lisette Wallace to the little Railroad station which linked Paradise to the world outside, and ordering her to get out of the country which her presence had soiled, Bob Fitzgerald was carrying his sweetheart back thru the same drifts which she had previously braved, fearing that she might get her feet wet. Such is the inconsistency of lovers, for Bob Fitzgerald and Eleen never realized that there was anyone else in the world but themselves, until they found that Bob had walked into Paradise creek, and was up to his knee knees in the rushing water.

The End.

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JUN -6 1922

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